NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

March 8, 1996

RUATEPUPUKE

A Maori Meeting House

A celebration of the third anniversary of the reopening of Ruatepupuke, the Maori Meeting House, was held March 2. Coordinated by **Mary Ann Bloom**, Education Department, the day was filled with South Pacific activities for visitors, and in the evening, a formal welcome ceremony, feast and sleepover in the Maori House for guests, staff and volunteers.

Visitors enjoyed traveling the South Pacific at Field Museum as the volunteers presented special activities about volcanoes, coconuts, musical instruments, slides of Melanesia, navigation and Maori string figure games. Stanley Field Hall was filled with the rhythmic sounds of Maori musical stick games and poi balls performed by visitors with **Houpeke and Leah Piripi** (Maori).

At 5:00 p.m., a formal welcome ceremony was held at the Maori House. Leah Piripi (Maori) called the guests on the marae with the karanga welcome chant. Houpeke Piripi (Maori) gave the ritual warrior challenge. Guests were welcomed with greetings from Mary Ann Bloom, **Faith Smith** (Chippewa), **Howard Hilliard** (Maori), **Dell Yarnell** (FM volunteer). The guests included many people from the local Native American community, a Maori musician, ten New Zealanders, volunteers, staff and friends. Accepting the welcome for the group of guests were **Agnes Wagoosh** (Ojibwa), **George Star Bresette** (Ojibwa), **Jean LaTraille** (Oneida), **Thomas Kini** (Maori), **Jack Regalado** (FM), and **Daniel Rosenblatt** (University of Chicago, Maori Studies).

A little late-night sleep was had by some inside the Maori House, while others gathered in the Pawnee Earth Lodge to tell stories and plan for a Native American overnight in the Lodge.

PHONE SERVICE MAINTENANCE/INTERRUPTION

On Wednesday, March 20, 1996, Ameritech will be doing maintenance on our voice mail system after 5:00 p.m. The phones will experience a temporary loss of voice mail (approximately one hour). All public phones will be functional, as well as the Security Console phone. If you have any questions, please call **Pat Phillips** (x216). Thank you.

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

MUSEUM DISPLAY CASES FIND NEW HOMES

Two large Field Museum display cases will be finding new homes thanks to a partnership between the Museum and the Resource Center. The "Creative Reuse Warehouse" is a program that relocates materials from businesses that no longer need them to education and art programs. The goal of the program is to have no wasted resources in the area and no schools without a richness of materials. Thanks to **Heather McMillen,** CCUC volunteer, **Robert Weigland, Mike Paha** and **Geoff Grove** for making it happen!

NEW GUINEA RESEARCH PROGRAM

During the second week of February **John Edward Terrell** (Anthropology) and director of the New Guinea Research Program (NGRP) at the Museum, attended the annual meetings of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania (ASAO) held this year at Kona, Hawai'i. Most of his time was taken up working with authors who are currently writing chapters for a book that Terrell and **Robert L. Welsch** (Anthropology) are putting together titled *THE POLITICS OF TRADE AND FRIENDSHIP IN THE PACIFIC: Essays on the anthropology of social fields and regional networks*. On February 8, Terrell lectured at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa on "Lapita and the temporal geography of Pacific prehistory." He also spent several days at the Bishop Museum and wrote a review for *Pacific Arts* of the Bishop's latest exhibition, "Faces of Papua New Guinea: Art, Architecture, and Ceremony." He reports that it was an unfortunate time to have to be away from the glories of winter in Chicago but says the trip was successful nonetheless. Also attending the ASAO meetings was **Pamela Stewart**, (Anthropology, Research Associate). Next month Stewart will be leaving Chicago for Pittsburgh and will be on sabbatical from NGRP for six months while she gets resettled in the Steel City.

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. Submissions may be made on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org. The deadline is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

Memo to Staff and Volunteers regarding Lake Shore Relocation/ Possible Staff Fee Shuttle Service

As many of you are aware, the relocation of the southbound lanes will begin at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 15. The exact changeover date will be on Monday, March 18. During this construction phase we will be faced with parking issues and traffic congestion in the area. Therefore, we are investigating the possibility of a fee-based shuttle service to help alleviate some issues that staff may face during the construction phase.

The shuttle service would be for the Field, Adler, and Shedd staff and volunteers. The shuttle would operate Monday through Friday during regular business hours. The two locations identified as pickup and drop-off points are Union Station and Northwestern.

The three institutions are committed to assisting staff during this difficult time. However, the institutions do not have the resources to incur the cost of the shuttle service. Therefore, we are seeking information from you to determine the potential usage and/or need for the shuttle service. The following questions will help us assess the possibility of a shuttle service.

Are you interested in the shuttle service?

How much are you willing to pay for the service?

How often would you use the shuttle bus?

Identify your pickup location: Union Station or Northwestern?

We are interested in your feedback. Please take a moment to answer the above questions, then return the form to Paula Brandabur in Public Services by March 15,1996.

Thank you for your cooperation.

WELCOME!

Staff Members who started at the Museum in February

Veronica Alexander	Development	Secretary II	348
Miriam Alleyne	Security	Security Supervisor	372
Cindy Andresen	Women's Board	Women's Board Coordinator	870
Lisa Bergwall	Academic Affairs	Secretary II	559
Howard Brown	Anthropology	Intern (term)	611
Laura Brown	Anthropology	Photographer - Intern (term)	611
Fernando Fernandez	Botany	Post Doc Assoc (term)	722
Levon McAllister (rehire)	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator	329
Barb Novy (rehire)	Anthropology	MS-Science II (term)	443
Olga Pack	Security	Security Officer	322
Alonzo Spencer	Security	Security Officer	322
Brian Suave (rehire)	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator (term)	329
Maria Thomas	Personnel	Secretary II	356

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK...

Staff Members who left the Museum in February

Catherine Anderson	Conservation	Assistant Conservator
Joyce Czerwin	Membership	Telephone Solicitor
Janeen Devine	MS-Library II	Library
Toby Rajput	Membership	Telephone Solicitation Coordinator
Scott Smith	Anthropology	Collections Management Assistant
Chris Toft	Development	Friends Group Coordinator
Alfonzo Trotter	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Representative

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

*FIELD MUSEUM SCIENTIST CITED IN **NEW YORK TIMES***

Spider expert **Petra Sierwald** (Zoology, Insects) was quoted in the "Science Times" section of the *New York Times* in an article on the mating behavior of the poisonous redback spider of Australia (January 9, 1996). The article was reporting on Maydianne C. B. Andrade's doctoral research recently published in *Science* magazine on how the male redback spider improves his mating success by purposefully inviting the female spider to dine on him. Dr. Sierwald was quoted for her work with widow spiders, relatives of the redback. She currently is studying the mating habits of brown widow spiders, where after mating the female wraps the male in silk and leaves him to die.

FIELD MUSEUM TO HOST ARACHNOLOGY MEETING

The Field Museum will be the center of attention for arachnologists in 1998. The XIV. International Congress of Arachnology and the 22nd Annual Meeting of the American Arachnological Society will be held together at the FIELD at the end of June 1998. **Petra Sierwald** (Insects, Zoology), chairperson of the organizing committee, hopes the meetings will attract between 250 and 350 arachnologists from around the world. Plans for symposia are already underway.

GRADUATE STUDENTS RECEIVE NSF FUNDING

Amy Driskell, University of Chicago and Zoology graduate student, has received funding from the National Science Foundation for her dissertation improvement proposal on "the origins and distribution of cooperative breeding in the Honeyeaters." Honeyeaters are a large family of songbirds found in Australia, New Guinea and other South Pacific islands. More information on Amy's project may be found on her poster outside the biochemistry labs. **John Paul Schmit**, University of Chicago and Botany graduate student, also received NSF funding for his dissertation improvement proposal, "Population dynamics and species diversity of decomposers of patchy substrates." The objective of his study is to examine the population dynamics and species diversity of fungi that decompose patchily distributed resources such as wood, leaves, and dung. The research has two main components: laboratory work at The Field Museum and at the University of Chicago, and field work at the Luqillo Long Term Ecological Research site in Puerto Rico. Congratulations Amy and John Paul!

GRADUATE STUDENT WINS HONORS

Kate Kelly, University of Chicago and Zoology graduate student won the President's Award for best student poster at the Entomological Society of America annual meetings. Her poster was on coevolution of chemical defenses and coloration in tiger beetles. Congratulations Kate!

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday March 5, 1996 was delivered by **Michael O. Dillon,** Curator Vascular Plants, Department of Botany, Field Museum. Mike discussed his research on sexual systems in angiosperms and in the family Asteraceae (Aster family) in particular. Most flowering plants are hermaphrodites, having both sexes functional in the same flower. A few are monoecious, where each sex is represented by separate inflorescences but still borne on the same individual plant. Dioecious plants have separate male and female individuals. While quite rare, the dioecious condition has arisen independently several times within the Aster family. Radiation within the genus *Chersodoma* has given rise to as many as nine dioecious species. Mike correlated phylogenetic hypotheses with both ecological and biogeographic patterns for these nine species throughout the higher elevations of the Puna region of the Andean Cordillera of western South America.

SPECIATION LAB EXHIBIT CHANGES

The Museum has installed a new display in the Speciation Lab section of *Life Over Time.* The case features a new species a shrew opossum from South America, described by **Bruce Patterson** (Mammals) in the February issue of *Journal of Mammalogy.* In addition to a skin and skull of the new species, the display includes photographs, maps, and a field journal.

We'd like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this display a reality: **Alan Shefner, Bob Weiglein, Karen Olenski, Pam Gaible,** and **Gene Dillenburg** (Exhibits); **Nina Cummings** (Photography); and Bruce Patterson and **Bill Stanley** (Mammals).

THANKS!

In the February 23 issue of the *Natural News,* we inadvertently omitted Audio Visual from the list of departments and people being thanked by **Gene Dillenburg.** So sorry!

NOTE:

The *Natural News* will not be published on March 15, unless there is urgent, time-valued business to report. Such material should be given to **Richard Koontz.**

We extend our deepest sympathies to **Calvin Gray** on the passing of his father.